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Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1644
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E. O. 11652: SGDS-2
TAGS: EIND, TECH, TGEN
SUBJ: MAGNETIC BUBBLE TECHNOLOGY

REF: (A) STATE 198501; (B) MUNICH 2033

1. EMBASSY UNABLE TO UNCOVER INFORMATION DIRECTLY IN POINT TO QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL (A), BUT RECEIVED COMMENTARY AND SPECULATION FROM COMMERCIAL SOURCES KNOWLEDGEABLE SUBJECT TECHNOLOGY WHICH MIGHT BE USEFUL AS BACKGROUND INFO FOR RESEARCH PAPER NOTED PARA 6, REFTEL (A).

2. STUTTGART CONGEN OFFICERS QUERIED IBM ABOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF ANY NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SIEMENS AND JAPANESE FIRM RE MAGNETIC BUBBLE TECHNOLOGY AND IBM UNAWARE OF ANY SUCH ARRANGEMENT. IBM CONSIDERED CONNECTIONS WITH A JAPANESE FIRM IN THIS AREA A LOGICAL STEP FOR SIEMENS, AND FELT THAT THE SUBSTANCE OF ANY COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WOULD BE A TECHNICAL EXCHANGE OF JAPANESE MAGNETIC BUBBLE TECH-NOLOGY FOR USE IN SIEMENS MEMORY UNITS. ACCORDING TO IBM THE SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT OF MAGNETIC BUBBLE TECHNOLOGY IS SEVERAL YEARS OFF, AND NOTWITHSTANDING
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ANY SIEMENS - JAPANESE COOPERATION, IBM WILL PROBABLY

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CORNER THIS MARKET.

3. EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSSED MAGNETICBUBBLE TECHNOLOGY WITH CDC REP WHO NOTED THAT SIEMENS IS WORKING WITH HITACHI IN A NUMBER OF AREAS, ONE OF WHICH COULD BE MAGNETIC BUBBLE TECHNOLOGY. CDC DOES NOT CONSIDER SIEMENS WORK IN THIS AREA VERY FAR ADVANCED, AND DOES NOT BELIEVE HITACHI HAS ANYTHING NEW TO OFFER BEYOND WHAT IBM ALREADY HAS ON THE MARKET. CDC REP MENTIONED THAT HITACHI HAS SUFFERED OVER THE YEARS FROM AN INABILITY TO MOVE FROM THE RESEARCH LAB TO THE PRODUCTION LINE, AND SPECULATED THAT ANY SIEMENS-HITACHI COOPERATION COULD INVOLVE AN EXCHANGE OF HITACHI MAGNETIC BUBBLE TECHNOLOGY FOR SIEMENS PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES.
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